

REMARKS

There remains pending in this application claims 1-14, of which claims 1 and 11 are independent. No claims have been added or cancelled.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

The drawings have been objected to on grounds that various reference signs in the description do not appear in the drawings and vice versa. As the Examiner will appreciate, Applicants submit herewith a replacement drawing for Figure 2 which has now had added to it reference numeral 40. Applicants have also amended the specification to eliminate reference to numeral 43 and respectfully note that reference numeral 49 appears in the lower portion of Figure 9. Applicants also respectfully note that reference numeral 301 appears in the specification at least at page 13, line 26.

Given the above comments and specification and drawing amendments, withdrawal of the objections to the drawings is now respectfully sought.

The invention as featured in independent claim 1, as amended, is directed to a both-side recording apparatus which is characterized in that a recording medium is transported to a position where a rear end of the recording medium is released from the sheet transport roller when a first surface is recorded at first, and then the recording paper is transported to a paper inversion unit in such a manner that the recording medium is transported by the sheet discharge roller toward a reverse direction while the sheet transport roller and pinch roller are separated so

that the recording medium moves between the sheet transport roller and the pinch roller without contacting with the pinch roller, and then the pinch roller is pressed into contact with the recording medium again to further continue the transport in the reverse direction.

Independent claim 11 is directed to a both-side recording apparatus which incorporates the above-discussed characterizing features of claim 1, and further positively recites separating means for separating the pinch roller from the first transported roller and a control means for controlling the first transport roller, the second transport roller and the separating means. Claim 11 further recites an inversion means which inverts the sheet transported by the first transport roller toward the direction opposite to the transport direction and transports the sheets to the first transport roller.

Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blackman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,332,068) in view of Kurata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,808,647). In view of the above amendments and for reasons which follow, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as now featured in each of claims 1-14 provides for separating the pinch roller from the transport roller when the recording medium, the first surface of which is recorded on and is fed to the inversion unit, advances without contacting the pinch roller between the pinch roller and the transport roller, and then the pinch roller is pressed onto the recording medium to continue to transport the recording medium in the reverse direction. Since the pinch roller is not in contact with the recording medium at the first stage of the reverse

feeding, it is possible to prevent ink from being deposited on the recording medium even if the ink is not fully dried, and the ink deposited on the pinch roller is prevented from being re-transferred to the recording medium.

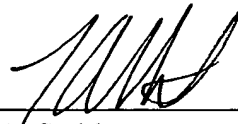
Blackman et al. relates to a print recording apparatus for duplex printing and discloses an inverting unit. However, Blackman et al. does not teach or suggest that the recording medium is transported by the sheet discharge roller toward a reverse direction while the sheet transport roller and the pinch roller are separated so that the recording medium moves between the sheet transport roller and the pinch roller without contacting the pinch roller.

Kurata et al. is also directed to a sheet conveying apparatus but does not teach or suggest an inverting unit where the feeding of the recording medium in the inversion direction. Moreover, Kurata et al. fails to teach or suggest that a pinch roller is separated from the conveying roller. In Kurata et al. only the hold down members 7a and 7b are separated from the recording medium when the recording medium is conveyed

Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1-14 are distinguishable over the applied art of record. Favorable consideration and allowance of the above application are now respectfully sought.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LAS', is written over a horizontal line.

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